

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 02032 131217Z

12/60

ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-03 H-02 SCA-01 /019 W

----- 069765

R 111244Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9759

UNCLAS MOSCOW 2032

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 2.)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, UR (CANNON, LEE B)

SUBJ: W/W LEE B CANNON

REF: DEPT'S OM (SCS) OF JAN 13, 1976

1. EMBASSY FEBRUARY 6 ANSWERED LETTER SIMILAR TO THAT OF CONGRESSMAN PAUL G. ROGERS (ATTACHED TO REF OM) FROM SENATOR ROBERT DOLE, WHO FORWARDED LEE B. CANNON'S COMPLAINT THAT THE EMBASSY DID NOT ASSIST HIS WIFE WHEN SHE WAS HOSPITALIZED IN MOSCOW. SUMMARY OF EMBASSY LETTER (COPY BEING POUCHED TO DEPT) AND STATEMENT FROM EMBASSY DOCTOR, WHICH WAS ATTACHED, FOLLOW.

2. THE EMBASSY MAKES EVERY POSSIBLE EFFORT TO HELP AMERICANS WHO FIND THEMSELVES IN NEED OF MEDICAL OR OTHER ASSISTANCE WHILE TRAVELING IN THE USSR. THE DOCTOR ASSIGNED TO THE STAFF OF THE EMBASSY IS, IN FACT, ON TWENTY-FOUR HOUR CALL AND VOLUNTARILY, AS TIME AND PRIORITIES DICTATE, MAKES NUMEROUS CALLS ON SICK AMERICAN TOURISTS BOTH IN HOSPITALS AND HOTEL ROOMS.

3. WITH REGARD TO MR. CANNON'S SPECIFIC COMPLAINT, THE PROBLEMS HE DESCRIBED WERE DUE TO A LACK OF BASIC COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE CANNONS AND THE EMBASSY. TO THE BEST RECOLLECTION OF EMBASSY OFFICERS, THE CANNON'S TOUR GROUP LEADER TELEPHONED EMBASSY TO REPORT THAT MRS. CANNON HAD BEEN HOSPITALIZED. THE TOUR GROUP LEADER WAS ASKED TO REQUEST THE CANNONS TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE EMBASSY DIRECTLY SO THAT ARRANGEMENTS COULD BE MADE TO RENDER APPROPRIATE ASSISTANCE. IF THEY HAD MADE THEIR PROBLEMS

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KNOWN TO THE EMBASSY, EVERY EFFORT WOULD HAVE BEEN MADE TO MEET

THEIR NEEDS AND ASSIST THEM TO RETURN TO THE US.

4. EMBASSY DOCTOR WAS TOTALLY OCCUPIED DURING PERIOD IN QUESTION WITH CASE OF AMCIT WHO UNDERWENT EMERGENCY SURGERY FOR RUPTURED APPENDIX IN SOVIET HOSPITAL. IN THE ABSENCE OF DIRECT COMMUNICATION FROM THE CANNONS, DOCTOR AND OTHER EMBASSY OFFICERS BELIEVED THEY DID NOT REQUIRE ASSISTANCE.
STOESSEL

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NNN

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Disposition Event:
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